

CASE NO.: DP-311107
Serial No.: 10/783,567
September 4, 2006
Page 2

PATENT
Filed: February 20, 2004

1. (currently amended) A solenoid valve, comprising:

a valve housing supporting a coil;

a ball in the valve housing;

a valve seat in the valve housing, ~~wherein the valve housing is formed with at least one ball~~
~~retainer rib defining a supply port having a first diameter, the ball being disposed between the rib and~~
~~valve seat and defining a second diameter larger than the first diameter such that the rib retains the~~
~~ball from passing outward through the supply port, wherein said rib may be deformable such that the~~
~~ball may be pressed through the rib into the location between the rib and the ball seat; and~~

a rod reciprocatingly disposed in the valve housing between a deenergized configuration,
wherein the coil is deenergized and the ball is against the valve seat, and an energized configuration,
wherein the coil is energized and the rod is urged against the ball to move the ball away from the
valve seat, ~~wherein the valve housing defines the valve seat and is made integrally with a winding~~
~~bay, the coil being wound in the winding bay~~ the rod is distanced from the ball by between one tenth
and eight-tenths of a millimeter (0.1mm-0.8mm) inclusive, when in the deenergized configuration.

2, 3. (canceled).

4. (original) The valve of Claim 1, wherein the valve housing is formed with at least one
supply port, the ball being disposed between the supply port and valve seat, the valve housing also defining
a control port and an exhaust port, fluid communication being blocked through the supply port and established

1197-123.AMD

CASE NO.: DP-311107
Serial No.: 10/783,567
September 4, 2006
Page 3

PATENT
Filed: February 20, 2004

through the exhaust and control ports in the deenergized configuration, fluid communication being blocked through the exhaust port and established through the supply and control ports in the energized configuration.

5. (original) The valve of Claim 1, further comprising a vehicle fluid system communicating with the valve.

6. (original) The valve of Claim 1, further comprising a primary plate and at least one terminal, the housing being injection molded around the primary plate and terminal to form at least the valve seat and winding bay.

7. (currently amended) A solenoid valve for a vehicle, comprising:

a valve housing holding a rod, a ball, and forming a valve seat therebetween, wherein the valve housing is formed with at least one ball retainer rib defining a supply port having a first diameter, the ball being disposed between the rib and valve seat and defining a second diameter larger than the first diameter such that the rib retains the ball from passing outward through the supply port, wherein said rib ~~may be~~ is deformable such that the ball ~~may be pressed~~ is pressable through the rib into the location between the rib and the ball seat, the valve housing also defining a winding bay, a coil being wound in the winding bay.

8. (canceled).

1157-123.AMD

CASE NO.: DP-311107
Serial No.: 10/783,567
September 4, 2006
Page 4

PATENT
Filed: February 20, 2004

9. (original) The valve of Claim 7, wherein the valve housing is formed with at least one supply port, the ball being disposed between the supply port and valve seat, the valve housing also defining a control port and an exhaust port, fluid communication being blocked through the supply port and established through the exhaust and control ports in the deenergized configuration, fluid communication being blocked through the exhaust port and established through the supply and control ports in the energized configuration.

10. (original) The valve of Claim 7, further comprising a vehicle fluid system communicating with the valve.

11. (original) The valve of Claim 7, further comprising a primary plate and at least one terminal, the housing being injection molded around the primary plate and terminal to form at least the valve seat and winding bay.

12-14 (canceled).

1137-123.AMD